

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 15 – 16, and 18 – 41 are currently pending in this application. Claim 15 has been amended to correspond to language agreed upon during the Examiner's interview. Claim 41 is new. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Examiner Interview

The undersigned and inventor, Christoph Weis, conducted an in-person interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor, Dinh Nguyen at the U.S.P.T.O. on April 27, 2009. During the interview, amendments to the claims were discussed in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,534,514 to Aghnides. Additionally, working samples of the claimed insertion cartridge and portion of an armature in which it is held were demonstrated, dismantled and discussed with the Examiner.

An agreement was reached with respect to claim 15 and is represented in the above amendment.

The undersigned and inventor, Christoph Weis, wish to thank the Examiner and Supervisor Nguyen for the courtesies extended during the interview. If the Examiner believes that a further interview, either telephonically or in person, will help to resolve any potential issues in connection with this application, the

Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 15, 16 and 18 - 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,534,514 to Aghnides et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As amended, claim 15 is directed to a sanitary outflow armature. The armature includes a liquid guide that opens into a fitting outlet, in an area of which a plumbing functional unit in the form of an insertion cartridge is provided. An inner diameter of the liquid guide is adapted to the insertion cartridge at least in an opening area of the fitting outlet. The insertion cartridge is inserted into the fitting outlet from an opening side and is held in a single fixed position therein by a hollow, cylindrical sleeve-shaped intermediate holder. At least a predominant portion of a longitudinal extension of the insertion cartridge is received within the fitting outlet.

As discussed and agreed upon during the interview, Aghnides fails to show or suggest a hollow, cylindrical sleeve-shaped intermediate holder (6) as claimed. In Aghnides, the cartridge housing itself has external threads that mate with inner threads of the outflow armature. As a result of having the threads on the cartridge sleeve, different insertion cartridges are required for different outflow armatures to

accommodate for the various armature manufacturers. Such an arrangement leads to higher expenses as a result of having to manufacture so many different cartridges.

The insertion cartridge as currently claimed provides a hollow, cylindrical sleeve-shaped intermediate holder that holds the insertion cartridge into the fitting outlet. Since the cartridge is held by the sleeve-shaped intermediate holder, the intermediate holder effectively acts as an adapter to allow any suitable cartridge to be used. This allows for bulk purchasing of cartridges that can be used in different situations, thereby reducing costs.

Claims 16 and 18 - 40 are dependent upon claim 15, which the Applicants believe is allowable over the cited prior art of record for the same reasons provided above.

New claim 41 is substantially identical to claim 15 and recites a sanitary outflow armature including a liquid guide that opens into a fitting outlet in an area of which a plumbing functional unit in the form of an insertion cartridge is provided. An inner diameter of the liquid guide is adapted to the insertion cartridge at least in an opening area of the fitting outlet. The insertion cartridge is inserted into the fitting outlet from an opening side and is held in a single fixed position therein by a hollow, cylindrical sleeve-shaped intermediate holder, which comprises a contoured end face tool engagement portion.

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Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claims 15 – 16 and 18 - 40 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 15 – 16 and 18 - 41, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Weis et al.

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